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and reproduction, such time being the earliest practicable time;

(6) An agreement that the information and data resulting from the scientific research activity will not be sold or withheld for exclusive use;

(7) The name, registry number, registered owner, and port of registry of vessels used in the operation; and

(8) A scientific research plan.

(e) Within 30 days following the receipt of an application for a permit and the accompanying plan which does not require preparation of an environmental analysis the Director shall—

(1) Approve the application and plan;

(2) Require the applicant to modify the application and/or plan; or

(3) Disapprove the application and plan. If the Director disapproves an application and plan, the statement of rejection shall give the reasons for the disapproval and shall advise the applicant of the changes needed to obtain approval.

§ 280.6 Prospecting or scientific research plan.

(a) The applicant shall submit a plan with its application for a prospecting or scientific research permit. The plan shall include—

(1) Identification of the mineral(s) or material(s) of primary interest, if appropriate;

(2) A detailed description of the activities to be conducted;

(3) The type(s) of equipment to be used with special attention to safety and pollution prevention and control features and the name, registration, and mobile communication system of vessel(s);

(4) Maps showing location of proposed activities including drill holes, grab or basket samples, anticipated depth of penetration of drill holes, water depth, and location of proposed survey grids for each surveying method which is to be employed;

(5) A schedule indicating the starting and completion dates for each proposed activity;

(6) Anticipated environmental consequences of each proposed activity;

(7) Mitigation measures to be used to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts of proposed activities;

(8) For any activities which are to occur in an environmentally sensitive area, a plan for monitoring the effects of the activities on the environment;

(9) Any known archaeological resources in the area of the proposed activities; and

(10) Description of any potential conflicts with other uses or users in the permit area.

(b) If the penetration of one or more proposed drill holes will exceed 300 feet, the Director may require a drilling plan to be included as part of the plan before a permit is issued.

(c) If all needed information is not available at the time the plan is submitted, a plan shall indicate when the needed information will be obtained and submitted. In such a case, depending on the significance of the missing information, the Director may disapprove the plan, approve the plan based on the information submitted, or approve the plan with a specific condition that certain specified activities are not authorized and shall not be conducted until additional information is obtained and submitted for evaluation, and the Director gives specific approval to proceed with those activities.

§ 280.7 Obligations of persons.

(a) Activities authorized under a prospecting or scientific research permit issued under this part or research authorized pursuant to the provisions of § 280.5(c) of this part shall be conducted so as not to create conditions which will pose an unreasonable risk of—

(1) Interference with, or endangerment of, operations under any lease or permit issued or maintained pursuant to the Act;

(2) Serious, irreparable, or immediate harm or damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life) or to the marine, coastal, or human environment;

(3) Serious, irreparable, or immediate harm or damage to property or to any mineral (in areas leased or not leased);

(4) Pollution;

(5) Disturbance of archaeological resources;

(6) Hazardous or unsafe conditions; or

(7) Interference with or serious, irreparable, or immediate harm to other uses of the area.

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(b) The permittee or scientific researcher shall allow the Director to be present on any cruise.

(c) The permittee shall notify and obtain the prior approval of the Director before a substantial change from the approved plan is initiated.

§ 280.8 Reporting.

(a) The permittee shall submit a status report to the Director within 30 days of the close of each calendar quarter or more frequently if requested by the Director. The report shall include a summary of the prospecting or scientific research activities conducted prior to the end of the reporting period and the results obtained. The last quarterly report may be combined with the final report if the final report is submitted within 30 days after the end of the last quarter in which permitted activity occurs. Each permittee shall submit to the Director a final report of activities conducted under the permit within 6 months after expiration of the permit or after the completion of prospecting or scientific research activities, or 60 days prior to a planned lease offering when prospecting or scientific research activities are within the planned leasing area, whichever is sooner, provided that no report shall be required less than 30 days after completion of permitted activities. The report shall include—

(1) A description of the work performed;

(2) Charts, maps, or plats depicting the area and blocks in which any activities were conducted specifically, identifying the lines of geophysical traverses and/or the locations where geological activity was conducted;

(3) The dates on which the actual activities were performed;

(4) A narrative summary of any mineral occurrences encountered including location, environmental features, and the nature and degree of adverse effects, if any, of the permitted activities on the environment, aquatic life, archaeological resources, or other uses of the area in which the activities were conducted;

(5) A report of the results of the environmental monitoring required in § 280.6(a)(8) of this part; and

(6) Such other descriptions of the activities conducted as may be specified by the Director.

(b) All persons shall immediately notify the Director of all serious accidents, any death or serious injury, or fire or explosion connected with any activity conducted pursuant to this part.

§ 280.9 Recordkeeping.

(a) Any permittee who acquires rock and mineral samples under a permit shall keep for 1 year after submittal of the final report a representative split of each geological sample and a quarter longitudinal segment of each core which shall be available for inspection at the convenience of the Director who may cut such core and geological samples for retention by MMS.

(b) Any permittee who acquires G&G data and information under a permit shall keep the data and information available for 3 years after submittal of the final report. The data and information shall be available for inspection and copying at a location within the appropriate OCS Region or at another location approved by the Director. The records shall include environmental data and information; G&G data and information; drill logs; analyses of cores, cuttings, and samples; and maps and navigation tapes showing the location where samples were taken and test drilling conducted.

§ 280.10 Environmental effects.

The potential of proposed prospecting or scientific research activities for adverse impact on the environment will be evaluated by MMS to determine the need for mitigation measures. The MMS anticipates that activities of the type listed below typically will not cause significant environmental impact and, in accordance with 516 DM 6, Appendix 10 to the Departmental Manual, will normally be categorically excluded from additional environmental analysis. The types of activities include—

(a) Gravity and magnetometric observations and measurements;

(b) Bottom and subbottom acoustic profiling or imaging without the use of explosives;